Post 4/20/70

Cuba Reports Routing Band Of Invaders

MIAMI, April 19 (AP)—Premier Fidel Castro said today his troops killed two mercenaries from the United States and captured three others in two battles in Cuba. He said the invaders were armed with modern automatic weapons of the "Yankee army."

Castro, who said four of his own men were killed and two were wounded, made the disclosure in an unusual personal communique broadcast on Radio Havana and monitored here.

The broadcast did not say how many mercenaries landed in Cuba, but indicated the number was small.

[In Washington, a spokesman for the State Department said it had no information on Castro's statement except for news dispatches.]

None of the militant anti-Castro groups in Miami's Cuban exile colony immediately claimed credit for the attack in Cuba's eastern Oriente Province.

See CASTRO, A4, Col. 3

Cuba Reports Clashes With Invasion Band

CASTRO, From A1

In his broadcast, Castro said:

"A group of mercenaries coming from the United States, equipped with modern automatic arms of the Yankee army, landed near the Yumuri River 14 miles east of the city of Baracea Friday, April 17, at dawn." This was the ninth anniversary of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

"Almost immediately, army forces, country militia and units of the border patrol made the first contact with the mercenaries, capturing two prisoners and seizing two automatic rifles, 2,000 bullets and numerous packages of plastic explosives.

"A tenancious hunt for the rest of the group was started immediately. Yesterday at 4:23 p.m. our forces established contact again in chasing the enemy.

"Four courageous combatants of the revolution lost their lives and two were gravely wounded. During the action, two mercenaries were killed and a third one was taken prisoner. A hunt for the mercenaries continues . . ."

"These bandit activities form part of the imperialist plan to obstruct and hamper the sugar harvest."

Castro has promised to harvest 10 million tons of sugar this year. The nation's biggest crop ever was 7.2 million tons in 1952.

[At the United Nations on March 27, Cuba accused the United States of allowing Cuban refugees to prepare a new invasion and referred to a statement that the refugees would have an invasion force ready by the end of the year, Reuters reported. A similar charge was made by the Cuban Communist party newspaper Granma in December.

[Four anti-Castro exiles who led a 10-man landing in eastren Cuba last year were executed in Havana.]